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Resist Board Meeting, Sept. 27, 1970

Resist

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MINUTES

RESIST Steering Committee Meeting, September 27, 1970,
Washington Square Methodist Church, New York City, 12 a.m.

ATTENDING

Tony Avirgan, Bill Davidon, Mitch Goodman, Florence Howe, Frank Joyce, Todd Manley, Paul Lauter, Grace Paley, Claudette Piper, Sue Rozen, Arlene Siegel, and Dan Stern. Guests: Harry Bracken, Belle Chevigny, Judy Chomsky, Prue Greenblatt, and Barbara Webster.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The current balance is \$4,020.45; the unencumbered balance is \$1,225.45. Todd recommended that no more than \$2,500 be granted and that continuing grants be kept to a minimum.

REPORTS ON FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Art Auction. Red Tovish cannot coordinate the sale. Grace will ask Mary Frank if she can head the project.

Mailings. Signatures are still needed for the letter to Old Mole, Spanish Refugee Aid, and Referendum '70 lists. Spanish Refugee Aid will be sent on October 7, the others shortly after that date. Arlene reported that a new descriptive flyer has been written and is now being printed.

MLA Poetry Reading. Dick Ohmann has written a letter inviting poets to take part in a benefit reading for RESIST during the MLA Convention. It will be sent to Allen Ginsberg, Denise Levertov, Robert Lowell, Adrienne Rich, Galway Kinnell, and others. A subcommittee of Florence, Grace, and Mitch will arrange the details of the reading, tentatively scheduled for December 29.

Fall Ad. The staff will get the text of the ad from Bob Zevin and circulate it before the next meeting. The staff also will ask for advertising rates from N.Y. Review of Books, New Republic, and The Nation.

High School Kit mailing. Florence reported that she has written to Herbert Kohl and John Holt asking them to co-sign the promotional letter for the mailing to monied educators and publishers asking them to subsidize the high school kit and use it in their work.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The resignation of Louis Kampf from the RESIST Steering Committee was accepted with deep regret. Although he will continue to be busy with NUC and MLA work, he promises to lend aid to RESIST in whatever ways he can.

Bill suggested that letters be written to inactive Steering Committee members telling them that we would welcome their presence, but that if they cannot participate we would like to remove their names from our list of Steering Committee members. It was agreed to do this.

VIETNAM BRIGADE

Tony reported on his trip to North and South Vietnam and presented the office with a North Vietnamese flag.

He said that the Vietnamese appreciated the offer of help but felt that it would not, at this time, be beneficial to have Americans working there. He said, however, that the Vietnamese said that if a call would help unify and build the American movement then we should do it, understanding that brigades would not be welcome until after the war.

Paul said that he had endorsed the idea of brigades because they would emphasize international solidarity with the liberation struggle, which has been missing in the usual liberal "anti-war" position. Discussion followed on other ways to bring about this understanding. One suggestion was to send money and various kinds of supplies to the Vietnamese, but Belle emphasized that it was important not to indicate that the North Vietnamese could not provide for themselves. Claudette said that to avoid paternalism and liberalism aid should be reciprocal and that the Vietnamese have much to offer politically and culturally.

It was decided that centers which distributed information about Vietnam and which could serve as supply collection centers would help people understand that the NLF and DRV should be supported. Frank said that The International Committee will soon set up two such centers on the coasts, but it was pointed out that there is a lot of country between Connecticut and California. Arlene suggested that we poll our contacts about the availability of information centers on their campuses and in their communities. We should also ask whether our contacts are willing to circulate to these centers information (political and cultural) about Vietnam, should RESIST decide to take responsibility for collecting and making available such information. Centers receiving information materials would be expected to help collect any materials the Vietnamese might ask the American movement to try to supply to them. This survey will be conducted before the next meeting. At the next meeting we will decide whether or not to take on this project.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE STUDENT STRIKE

Tony reported on the August 30 mass arrests following a student meeting in Saigon at which opposition to military conscription and to the war were discussed. Some of those arrested, including three student leaders, remain in jail, and Tony said that publicity and telegrams would help their cause. A telegram of support for the students, signed by the Steering Committee and some of our prominent friends will be sent to Saigon. Tony thought that an information poster for U.S. campuses should be designed, and it was decided that he would contact Fellowship of Reconciliation and National Student Association about distributing and paying for such a poster. It was agreed that RESIST would supply to to \$200, if necessary, to facilitate the printing and distribution of a poster.

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Todd gave a report on the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia. His impressions of the Convention were not overly favorable. He gave a brief description of the schedule of events, and then stated his main criticisms. They were that the workshops held were not well run, that several Panthers tried to run things according to the desires of the Party instead of those of the people attending. He also said that while there were some very good reports given at the assembly that night, many did not honestly reflect what went on in the workshops.

Arlene reported that this was especially true of the women's workshop. She said that the meeting had been at times disrupted by one Black woman who finally walked out but who later that night gave the report on the workshop for women, a report having no connection with the workshop itself.

Frank disagreed with some of the things said, and pointed out that there were more Blacks than whites at the Convention, a first for a Panther meeting. He said that the Panthers came out stronger than when they went in. Todd replied that the Convention represented the desires and aims of the Black Panther Party instead of those of all the people attending.

REPORT ON COMMITTEE AGAINST WAR, RACISM, AND REPRESSION

Claudette and Frank reported on the September 11-13 meeting in Milwaukee which established a new national coalition organization. Claudette said that local areas had been more broadly represented than at previous national meetings and felt that the stronger regional influence laid the foundation for a less elitist coalition. Frank, who had attended a follow-up meeting in New York after the Milwaukee meeting, was less optimistic about the reality of the coalition.

KIT ON DOMESTIC REPRESSION

Claudette asked support for a proposed RESIST kit on domestic repression and movement security. She said that Nick Egelson, who is writing a book on the subject, and Lee Webb could supply the basic articles for the kit. It was agreed to print and distribute the kit, and to provide up to \$200 toward research expenses.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION PRESS

Florence reported that Jo Ann Archer of Pittsburgh, with three friends, is publishing articles and kits. We agreed to exchange materials with her and to publicize her kits in the Newsletter.

NEW CALL TO RESIST ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITY

A proposed text for the sixth point on sexism was read and discussed. Florence agreed to rewrite the proposed text and to distribute it before the next meeting. Bill suggested that we add a statement supporting refusal to pay unjust taxes. The suggestion was approved by the Steering Committee.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Prue Greenblatt and Frank presented a funding request from The International Committee for \$500 to do a fundraising mailing. Claudette said that the group had organizational resources and the prestige to raise money and that she felt that RESIST money should not go to groups with such fundraising potential.

Paul said that he was opposed to ever funding the group as it is now constituted, and Florence agreed even more strongly. Frank said that many of the charges of elitism, especially those in the Committee of Returned Volunteers memorandum, were false. A sharp struggle ensued. Arlene suggested that we schedule a discussion of the CRV memo for the next meeting and that representatives of The International Committee be invited to attend. It was agreed to have this discussion, and to circulate both The International Committee's response to the CRV memo and copies of Marge Piercy's article, "The Grand Coulee Dam" before the meeting.

It was also agreed not to fund The International Committee.

FUNDING

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>
1. Common People's Party (Waterbury, Conn.)	denied			
2. Vocations for Social Change (Canyon, Calif.)	\$300 (if they need it)			
3. Erie (Pennsylvania) Draft Information	postponed until October			
4. New Organizing Project (Mobile, Alabama)	\$200	\$100	\$100	
5. Gay Liberation Front (L.A., California)	\$100	\$100		
6. Connections (San Francisco, California)	\$200	\$200		
7. Soledad Brothers Defense Committee (San Francisco, Calif.)	\$200	\$200		
8. Rising Up Angry (Chicago, Ill.)	\$200 (if and when they find an office)			
9. People's Action Center (Frederick, Md.)	\$150	\$100	\$ 50	

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	<u>Total</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>
10. Community Information and Service Center (Wooster, Ohio)	denied			
11. Bread and Roses (Boston, Mass.)	\$600	\$300	\$200	\$100
12. AFB (Champaign, Ill.)	postponed until October			
13. DMZ (Washington, D.C.)	\$200	\$200		
14. Wildcat Women (Baltimore, Md.)	\$225	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75
15. People's Press (Newmarket, N.H.)	denied			
16. About Face (Augusta, Maine)	denied			
17. Bloomfield Committee for Peace in Vietnam (New Jersey)	denied			
18. Sandstone Coffeehouse Organizing Committee (Minneapolis, Minn.)	denied			
19. The People's South End News	denied			
20. Anderson, Rankin, Zweig, and Todd (Gainesville, Fla.)	\$200	\$100	\$ 50	\$ 50
21. People for Adequate Welfare (Patchogue, N.Y.)	up to \$150 if they still need it			
22. Motor City Labor League (Detroit, Mich.)	\$200	\$200		
23. The International Committee	denied			
24. Radical Teacher's Collective (Baltimore)	\$ 75	\$ 75		
25. The Destroyer (Philadelphia, Pa.)	\$300	\$150	\$150	

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be in Cambridge on October 25.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Resist Financial Statement for Sept. 27, 1970

Balance on Aug. 28, 1970 86.90

Deposits to Sept. 27, 1970

Contributions	6625.60
pledges	2116.58
Cadre	202.00
H.S. Kit	76.75
Loan repaid	100.00
Misc.	240.00
Total	<u>9360.93</u>

Disbursements to Sept. 27, 1970

Payroll	838.81
Grants	1860.00
Postage	675.00
447.65 Printing/copying	447.65
office maintenance	144.64
Travel	249.72
H.S. Kit	69.06
Misc.	1129.10
	<u>5413.98</u>

Breakdown of grants

August Grants

The Kudzu	200.00
Tacoma Resistance	100.00
REIX CHE Payne Inst.	135.00

August Installments

Young Patriots	150.00
Club Voltaire	200.00
Montreal ADC	200.00
El Crito	250.00
Vietnam G.I.	75.00
Mother Jones Collective	100.00
S.W. Ohio Women's Liberation	100.00
Cleveland Women's Liberation	50.00
A Different Drummer	200.00
Peacemaker	100.00

Total Grants 1860.00

Breakdown of Miscellany

Taxes	707.83
Typewriter	299.50
Petty Cash	30.00
Sub. to WIN	5.00
	<u>1129.10</u>

Balance on Sept. 27, 1970, less corrections and service charges \$4020.45

Encumbrments

Payroll and taxes	1040.00	
Rent	130.00	
Phone	200.00	
Travel	240.00	
Newsletter	100.00	
H.S. Kit	450.00	
Postage	200.00	
Grants		
Vietnam G.I.	75.00	
The Kudzu	150.00	
Tacoma Resistance	75.00	
HEDC CHE Payne Inst.	135.00	
Total encumbrments		2795.00
Unencumbered balance	1225.45	

up to 3000

SEPTEMBER FUNDING REQUESTS

1. COMMON PEOPLE'S PARTY, Waterbury, Conn.: \$\$\$ to support Mr. Alphonse Avitabile in his 5th Congressional District campaign
- (300) 2. VOCATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, Canyon, Calif.: either \$800 for two months' rent or \$1000 for printing and postage for the next issue of their newsletter 300
- (150) 3. ERIE DRAFT LAW INFORMATION CENTER, Erie, Pa.: \$180/month for office maintenance - a bit focused on draft. 150 + 150
- 100 + 100 4. NEW ORGANIZING PROJECT, Mobile, Ala.: \$150/month for ongoing expenses for this previously funded group
- 100 + meeting 5. GAY LIBERATION FRONT, Los Angeles: unspecified amount to carry on broad program, particularly draft and military counselling very service oriented, No?
- 200 6. CONNECTIONS, San Francisco: up to \$350/month for organizing around the issue of prisons - Yes, but... connection to involvement?
- 200 7. SOLEDAD BROTHERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE, San Francisco: Unspecified amount for ongoing expenses. Monthly expenses run \$400
- (200) 8. RISING UP ANGRY, Chicago: \$600 for one month, \$300 for each of next two months to support two community information centers and work places for group which does draft and military counselling, women's liberation work, legal services, prison visitation, etc. Yes but less
- 100 + 50 9. PEOPLE'S ACTION CENTER, Frederick, Md.: \$150 for group doing draft, GI, and CEW work Yes
- No 10. COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND SERVICE CENTER, Wooster, Ohio: Up to \$3,710, the amount still needed to set up the center and run it for the first year (they probably already have \$10,000 from another source) Yes but how much?
- 300 + 200 + 100 11. BREAD AND ROSES, Cambridge: \$\$\$ for their program expenses for several local women's organizing projects (\$653/month for general expenses; \$1,360/month for salaries; \$205 still needed for a slide show for high school women) Yes but how much?
- 200 12. AFE, Champaign, Ill.: \$500 for a bus for use by GIs on week-ends, others during the week 250
- 100 + 200 (200) 13. DMZ, Washington, D.C.: up to \$600/month toward the cost of operating this GI coffeeshouse (excluding the costs of their paper Open Signs) Would give 200 or 300/mo.

14. WILDCAT WOMEN, Baltimore: \$75/month for 3 months toward the expenses of publishing an organizing paper for working women
75/3 dig
- X 15. Peoples' Press
- X 15. PEOPLES' PRESS, Newark, N. H.: whatever we can afford toward the \$2,500 they need to get started
Can't see it unless they've close.
- X 16. ABOUT FACE, Augusta, Me.: \$\$\$ toward the cost of producing this self-help information sheet for senior citizens and low income people
R.R. Lib.
- X 17. BLOOMFIELD COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM, Bloomfield, New Jersey: \$\$\$ to set up a storefront peace center
1. How much?
2. multi-issue
- X 18. SANDSTONE COFFEEHOUSE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Minneapolis: \$\$\$ to set up a coffee-house and newspaper to serve visitors to Sandstone
Same
- X 19. THE PEOPLES' SOUTH END NEWS, Boston: \$\$\$ for a press on which to print the paper
Yes - have much.
- 100/50/50 20. ANDERSON, RANKIN, ZWEIG, HANISCH, and TODD, Gainesville, F. their paper \$50/month seed money for a trial
or 190 for probably good - 150 + 50 + 50
- (150) 21. PEOPLE FOR ADEQUATE WELFARE, Patchogue, N. funded group through hard times
previously ?
- 200 22. ~~Rad Teachers, Balt~~
Motor City Labor League 450
23. International Committee 500
- \$75 24. Rad Teachers, Balt 200
- 150 + 150 25. The Destroyer, Phila 150/3
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.